

April 29, 1975

SENATOR F. LEWIS: May I point out that this is a minor bill before I answer the question, but go ahead.

SENATOR KOCH: I think whenever you get into the matter of free enterprise it is market control and it is not minor anymore Senator Lewis. As I understand the bill, are we just putting a flat minimum rate on this alcoholic beverage?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No, no. Let me explain it to you.

SENATOR KOCH: It is not? Then why not include beer and all kinds of alcoholic beverages in here?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Beer is a little bit different in quality.

SENATOR KOCH: In what way?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: In a couple of ways. Yes, it comes in cans first of all, Senator Duis was helping me out.

SENATOR KOCH: It also has foam on it, I suppose.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: The selling of beer is the different one because of the varieties and the types and the regionalizing of beer would make it very different. Most distilled liquor is a national scope operation. You can buy Jack Daniels, or Cutty, or any of those things anywhere. Beer is a different type of commodity and it would be almost impossible to regulate because of the variety of productions and the regionalization of the same.

SENATOR KOCH: Would you go back to my first question Senator Lewis, I'm very serious about it. You say that you are establishing a platform, now define the word platform, as it means in the free market.

SENATOR LEWIS: I'm saying that whatever they sell liquor for, hard liquor, distilled liquor for in Washington, D. C. they have got to make that same price available to Nebraska. Or wherever the lowest is. I just reread Babbet so I know everything about free enterprise.

SENATOR KOCH: Well thank you, I knew that you were a student of it, but sometimes you don't practice it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Chairman, a question of Senator Lewis please. Senator Lewis I noticed that there was some testimony in opposition to this bill. Basically from a wine producer here in the State of Nebraska. Why was wine not excluded?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Because we had eight votes in the committee.

SENATOR STONEY: That is the only reason?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No, wine is a very similar to distilled beverage and there was an asking to have that excluded and